

*Jan. 24, 2011*

*Stockton, Calif.* – Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that California has been awarded \$21 million in federal funding to improve air quality. \$5 million of the funding will pay for cleaner locomotives throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including a state-of-the art locomotive operating between the Port of Stockton and Lodi. The remaining \$16 million will cut emissions, and advance air quality and public health in California.

“I am glad that these funds have been awarded to California, and that good work will be done right here in San Joaquin County. Applying new technologies will improve our air quality, something that is desperately needed in our region,” said Rep. McNerney.

The funding comes through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, and will bolster air quality and bring health benefits to San Joaquin County.

“Some of our nation’s finest and most productive farmers are from this area. The farmers of the San Joaquin Valley produce dozens of unique crops and supply much of the nation’s fruit, vegetables, and nuts. We need to remain committed to keeping the Valley healthy, and as the administration develops plans for the Valley, I will remain vigilant in working to make sure our region fully benefits,” said Rep. McNerney.

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Program (DERA) was first signed into law in 2005. Since taking office in 2007, Congressman McNerney has been a strong proponent for continued funding for DERA projects.